

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/622,990

Examiner

Hadi Shakeri

Applicant(s)

PANEK ET AL.

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 09/20/04 and phone interview of 12/2/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 120204.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claim 12 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the method may be practice with another materially different apparatus, e.g., one not requiring the tab, relieved area or the angled portion.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 12 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Reidelbach, Jr. on Wednesday December 3, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace claim 1 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for latching a spring-loaded mechanism, adapted for use in a confined area of a workpiece enclosure, comprising:
a central bar member having a proximal and distal end;

Art Unit: 3723

an engagement arm pivotally mounted on said distal end of said central bar for engagement with the spring-loaded mechanism, said engagement arm having a relieved area for allowing said arm to pass under the mechanisms of the enclosure;

a pressure arm also pivotally mounted on said distal end of said central bar, and having a straight portion and an angled portion, said angled portion designed for resting against an inside wall of the enclosure, said engagement arm and pressure arm having the same pivot point;

wherein the pressure arm and engagement arm are pivotable in unison and move apart from one another in the confined area of the workpiece enclosure when a linear directional force is applied to said central bar against the spring-loaded mechanism and the inside wall of the enclosure for compressing the springs in the spring-loaded mechanism; and

wherein said pressure arm and said engagement arm each contain a respective tab located thereon adjacent said pivot point for limiting the pivoting travel and keening said respective arms within an operational position.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 9 previously cancelled

Please cancel claims 5, 8 and 10-12

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: inclusion of the same pivot point for the bars that move apart upon a linear directional force with tabs limiting the movement, relieved area, angle portion and linkage of the spring loaded mechanism and the workpiece enclosure in the body of the claim places the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

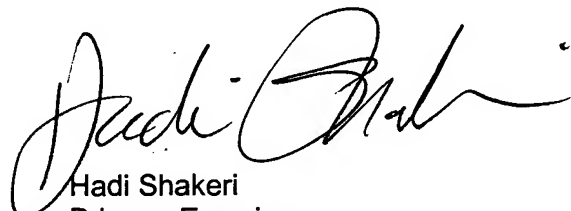
Art Unit: 3723

4. Prior art made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Edgerton is cited to show related inventions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hadi Shakeri whose telephone number is (571) 272-4495. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail, III can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Hadi Shakeri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723
December 3, 2004